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STARTFORTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

N/R

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for

1956

F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
(Univ. Edin.)
Medical Officer of Health.



Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Field, and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health of the Startforth Rural District for the year-ended 31st December 1956.

The mid-year population as estimated by the Registrar General was 5520, an increase of no less than 450 on that for the year 1955.

The total number of births was 63, very similar to that for 1955 (61); there was only one infantile death in 1956, and one maternal death - these being a mother and daughter - there being no maternal deaths in 1955 or for the past seven years. The infantile mortality rate at 15.87 was well below that for England and Wales at 23.80.

The death rate at 9.66 (46 deaths) compares with the National rate of 11.70 and is lower than in 1955. Principal causes of death were similar to those in 1955 viz. 24 deaths from heart disease, 6 from cancer and 6 from vascular diseases of the nervous system, there being no deaths from tuberculosis, and it is noted that deaths from cancer declined from 11 in 1954, 9 in 1955 to 6 in 1956.

Generally speaking therefore 1956 was a satisfactory year in the District from a health point of view. Diphtheria has been virtually wiped out by immunisation and there were only two deaths from infectious diseases during the year, one from influenza and the other from pneumonia.

Measles was epidemic in the months of January and February, mainly in the Bowes area, 62 cases in all were notified and included 33 school-children and 3 adults, the remainder were 26 pre-school aged children.

Three cases of acute paralytic poliomyelitis were notified during the month of May, two being school children attending different schools and it was impossible to demonstrate any infective link between these two cases; they are still receiving physiotherapy treatment at Darlington.

Immunisation against poliomyelitis, in certain selected age groups, was undertaken during May and June and also in November, but the numbers were much restricted owing to shortage of vaccine, which is supplied through the Ministry of Health.



Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health. F. W. Gavin, M.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector. C. D. Hunter, D.P.A., M.P.H.I.A., C.R.S.I.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in acres.	...	97630
Resident Population, mid-year estimate		5520
Number of inhabited houses	...	1415
Rateable value at 1st April 1956	...	£70339
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£392. 0. 0.
Rate in £ levied at 1st April 1956	...	7/3

VITAL STATISTICS.

BIRTHS. The number of live births registered during the year was 63, as against 61 in 1955. The birth rate comparisons show that the rate for the District is lower than that for the rest of England and Wales.

Birth Rate Comparisons.

Live births per 1,000 population
Stillbirths per 1,000 total live and stillbirths
as adjusted by Comparability Factors.

	<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Stillbirths</u>
Startforth Rural District 1956	14.38	60.00
Startforth Rural District 1955	15.16	00.00
England and Wales 1956 ...	15.70	23.10

		<u>Live Births</u>				<u>Stillbirths</u>			
		1956		1955		1956		1955	
		M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Legitimate	...	24	36	27	33	1	2	.	.
Illegitimate	...	1	2	.	1	.	.	.	.
Totals	...	25	38	27	34	1	2	.	.

DEATHS. Maternal Mortality. One maternal death was registered in the District during the year, this being the only maternal death registered during the past eight years. Cause of death - Acute myocardial failure, Eclampsia.

Infantile Mortality. One child under one year died in the District during 1956, this compares favourably with the five infantile deaths during 1955. This child was the daughter of the mother referred to above. Cause of death at one day - Asphyxia neonatorum, eclampsia (maternal).

Infantile Mortality Comparisons. Per 1,000 live births.

Startforth Rural District 1956	15.87
Startforth Rural District 1955	31.97
England and Wales 1956 ...	23.80

Deaths from all Causes. During 1956 there were 46 deaths from all causes registered in the District, as against 64 in 1955, comparing favourably with 11.70 for the rest of England and Wales.

Death Rates Comparisons. Death Rate per 1,000 pop.

Startforth Rural District 1956	9.66
Startforth Rural District 1955	13.50
England and Wales 1956 ...	11.70

<u>Causes of all Deaths and Sexes.</u>	<u>1955</u>		<u>1956</u>	
	M	F	M	F
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	.	1	.	.
Whooping Cough	1	.	.	.
Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	3	1	.	1
" " lung, bronchus	2	.	2	.
" " breast	.	.	.	.
" " uterus	.	.	.	.
Other malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasm	2	1	2	1
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	8	4	2
Coronary Diseases, angina	4	8	5	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease	.	.	.	1
Other Heart Diseases	8	8	4	11
Other Circulatory Diseases	2	.	1	2
Influenza	.	.	.	1
Pneumonia	.	1	1	.
Bronchitis	.	.	.	1
Congenital Malformations	.	1	.	.
Pregnancy, Childbirth,	.	.	.	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	1	4	.	2
Motor Vehicle Accidents	.	.	1	.
Suicide	1	.	.	.
Totals	31	33	20	26

<u>Ages at death - from all causes.</u>		<u>1956</u>	<u>1955</u>
From birth to one day	...	.	1
From one day to one week	...	1	2
Over one week, but under one year		.	2
From 1 to 24 years	...	.	1
From 25 to 54 years	...	5	7
From 55 to 64 years	...	2	10
From 65 to 74 years	...	17	16
Over 75 years	...	21	25
Totals		46	64

It will be noted that six deaths are below the age of 55, 19 in the age group 55/74 and 21 were over 75 years of age at death.

Number of deaths from the Seven Chief Causes and Comparisons with the previous year.

<u>No. of Deaths</u>		<u>Causes of Death</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 pop.</u>	
<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>		<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
9	6	Cancer	1.77	1.09
1	.	Respiratory (Non-Tuberculosis)	.20	.
28	24	Heart Disease	5.52	4.35
1	.	Tuberculosis - Pulmonary	.20	.
.	.	Tuberculosis - Non Pulmonary.	.	.
2	3	Other Circulatory Diseases	.39	.54
15	6	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	2.96	1.77
56	39		11.04	7.07

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. There were 79 cases of notifiable and/or infectious diseases reported during 1956, as against 28 in 1955.

<u>Analysis and comparisons with previous year</u>		<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>
Scarlet Fever	...	1	4
Acute Pneumonia	...	2	2
Erysipelas	...	1	.
Paralytic Poliomyelitis		.	3
Whooping Cough	...	3	8
Measles	...	21	62
Totals		28	79

TUBERCULOSIS. Once again there were no new notification of Tuberculosis during the year, the last notifications being in 1952.

Deaths from Tuberculosis. No death from this disease was registered in the District during 1956, as against one in 1955.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. Records received show that there were 26 vaccinations carried out during the year, as against 25 in 1955. 57 immunisations were carried out, as against 68 in 1955.

Comparisons and Age Groups of Vaccinations and Immunisations.

	1955		1956	
	0 - 5 years	Over 5	0 - 5 years	Over 5
Successful Vaccinations	17	8	22	4
Completed Course of Immunisation	24	44	39	18

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT 1946.

- Section 22. Care of Mothers and Young Children.
- Section 23. Domiciliary Midwifery.
- Section 24. Health Visiting.
- Section 25. Home Nursing.

Three District Nurse/Midwives employed by the North Riding County Council carry out the duties required by the above sections. There is one Infant Welfare Centre in the District - at Barnburgh, which is under the jurisdiction of the County Council and is attended by a local practitioner and the District Nurse/Midwife for that area; full advantage being taken of the facilities offered.

Number of visits paid to the patients by the District Nurse/Midwives during 1956 under the following categories, and compared with the same categories for 1955:-

Category	1955	1956
Domiciliary Midwifery	1021	1142
Home Nursing	1471	1749
Health Visiting	1496	1140

Section 27. Ambulance Service. This service is provided by the County Council from the Ambulance Station at Richmond which has a staff of one Driver/Foreman, one Shift Leader and 5 Driver/attendants, and with the assistance of the Hospital Car Service covers the Richmond Borough, and Rural Districts of Richmond, Startforth, Croft and Reeth.

Section 28. Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

The work of vaccination and immunisation, together with the advice spread by those working in the Public Health Service, inspectors, Midwives, Maternity and Child Welfare Officers, Doctors and Nurses, must all have a beneficial effect on the general health of the community.

Section 29. Domestic Help Service. This service is provided by arrangement with the North Riding County Council, and during 1956 nine cases received help, as compared with eleven cases in 1955, the analysis and comparisons being as follows:-

Category	1955		1956	
	Cases	Hours	Cases	Hours
Domiciliary Confinement	3	120	4	215
Chronic Sick	4	1359	4	1819
Sick Housewife	3	682	1	126
Tuberculosis	1	46	.	.
Totals	11	2207	9	2160

Section 51. Mental Health. No Committee in the Area and no cases arose in 1956 - as in the previous two years.

Dental Service. This service is provided by arrangements with the County Council.

National Assistance Act 1948. Section 47. No cases removed in 1956.

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The Public Health work of the District has been carried out as usual and I would like to thank Mr. Hunter, the Public Health Inspector for his kind co-operation at all times and for the compilation of the remainder of this Report.

Nuisances.

Total number of inspections for nuisances only	93
Total number of nuisances found	25
Number of statutory notices served.	.
Number of informal notices served.	17

Public Cleansing. During the year a scavenging service operated throughout the area and only a small number of the remote and out-lying premises were not served. From the greater part of the area refuse is collected once a week although in a few places collection is less frequently, whilst at the Military Establishment in Startforth a twice weekly collection is made.

Infectious Diseases. Three cases of poliomyelitis occurred during the year and the necessary disinfection of premises was carried out.

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948.

No. of Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6 are enforced by the L. A.	-	12
No. of inspections of above	-	19
No. of factories not included in which Section 7 is enforced by L. A.	-	8
No. of inspections of above	-	11
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by L. A.	6	
No. of inspections of above	-	10

Inspection and Supervision of Food. Twenty shops are registered, most of which are general stores. Nine of these are licensed to store ice-cream for sale.

There are four privately owned licensed slaughterhouses in the area and 209 visits of meat inspection were made involving a total weight of meat of 3616 cwts. The meat slaughtered was generally of a high quality. Meat condemned as unfit for food included an entire pig carcass and a quantity of offal.

Moveable Dwellings. Three licences were issued authorising people to station a caravan on land occupied by them. In addition there are two camping sites in the area - a licensed site at the Lendings, Startforth and an unlicensed site at Millfield, Startforth.

Sewage Disposal. The Council owns modern sewage disposal works at Cotherstone and Mickleton, both of which villages are provided with a satisfactory system of sewers. The sewage disposal works at Barningham, Bowes, Ronaldkirk and Startforth are inadequate and largely obsolete and are not capable of producing a satisfactory effluent, and in each place the system of sewers is unsatisfactory to a greater or lesser degree. The villages of Boldron, Holwick, Hutton Magna, Lartington and Ovington have no proper system of sewers or sewage disposal works and a similar situation obtains in the small centres of population in the parishes of Barforth, Gilmonby, Hinderthwaite, Rokeby, and Wycliffe with Thorpe.

Water Supply. The parishes of Barforth, Cotherstone, Lartington, Mickleton, Ovington and Romaldkirk are supplied with water by the Tees Valley Water Board, and the parish of Startforth by the Urban District Council of Barnard Castle. The Council operates undertakings in the parishes of Barningham, Boldron, Bowes, and Hutton Magna. During the year a water supply scheme for the village of Holwick was completed, but it was found that the impounding and protecting of the springs had not improved the quality of the water from a bacteriological standpoint and it was necessary to recommend the Council to instal chlorinating equipment. As a result this supply was not put into service during the year 1956.

Intermittent supply shortages occurred during the year in Bowes as a result of the inefficiency of the existing installation, but the wet weather during the summer months helped to prevent acute shortages arising at Bowes or at Boldron; Both these supplies are liable to fall inyield to a dangerously low level in time of drought.

Forty five samples of water for bacteriological examinations were taken during the year. Of these 22 were satisfactory and 23 unsatisfactory. Several of the unsatisfactory samples were obtained from the Holwick Water Supply where a series of samples were taken, all of which failed to reach the required standard. Where an unsatisfactory sample was obtained from a public supply in use at the time of sampling an immediate investigation was made into the cause and appropriate remedial measures were taken.

Housing.

No. of Statutory Notices under Housing Act 1936, Sect. 9	Nil
Ditto Sect. 11	1
No. of houses closed as a result of action under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953.	2
No. of applications for improvement grants under the Housing Act 1949 received during the year.	5
No. approved during the year.	2
No. refused during the year.	Nil
No. pending at year end	3
No. of houses erected during the year:-	
By the Local Authority.	Nil
By private persons	8

Rodent Control.

Domestic premises treated	7
Sewer manholes baited	121
Local Authority properties treated.	5
Other premises treated	3

